

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 FEA-02 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11

EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-04 SCI-06 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20

DOE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 ISO-00 DRC-01

/232 W

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R 251700Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3912

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 4014/1

EO 11652 NA

TAGS, PINT, PFOR, TU, GR, CY, PBOR, PLOS

SUBJ: GUNES/TETENES INTERVIEWS IN TO VIMA CARACAS FOR
LOS DELEGATION

1. JUNE 23 ATHENS DAILY TO VIMA FRONTPAGED ANSWERS OF
TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER GUNES AND GREEK COUNTERPART
TETENES TO FOUR QUESTIONS PUT TO THEM IN OTTAWA DURING
RECENT, UNDATED INTERVIEW BY TO VIMA CORRESPONDENT
CHRISTOS BOUBOURELLIS AND MILLIYET REPRESENTATIVE METIN
TOKER. BOTH DIPLOMATS PUT POSITIVE FACE ON BILATERAL
RELATIONS AND SAID AEGEAN AND CYPROT DIFFERENCES SHOULD
BE RESOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. TRADITIONAL POSITIONS
WERE REAFFIRMED THROUGH JURIDICAL, SOMETIMES AMBIVALENT
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PHRASING WHICH HELPED KEEP TONE OF INTERVIEW UPBEAT.

FIRST ANSWER BELOW IS TRANSLATION BY GOG SIME-
OFFICIAL PRESS SERVICE; REMAINING THREE ARE
EMBASSY'S TRANSLATION FROM GREEK PRESS.

2. QUESTION ONE: HAS ANY CHANGE OCCURRED IN THE
POLICIES OF YOUR GOVERNMENTS AS REGARDS TURKSH-GREEK RELATIONS?

TETENES: HAVING BEEN DICTATED BY GEOPOLITICAL
CONSIDERATIONS AND INAUGURATED BY THE WISDOM OF THE
MOST OUTSTANDING LEADERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, RELATIONS
OF FRIENDSHIP AND CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN TURKEY AND
GREECE REMAIN A STABLE FACTOR OF GREECE'S FOREIGN
POLICY. THE PRESENT GREEK GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ABANDON
THE FIRM CONVICTION THAT DEVOTION TO THIS AXIOM, ON THE
UNDERSTANDING THAT IT IS EQUALLY SHARED BY TURKEY,
CANNOT BUT BE BENEFICIAL AND MUTUALLY PROFITABLE TO
THE TWO COUNTRIES, WHICH HAPPEN TO BE MEMBERS OF A
COMMON SYSTEM GUARANTEEING THEIR SECURITY.

GUNES: THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY, LIKE ALL
ITS PREDECESSORS, FOLLOWS THE SAME POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP
AND COOPERATION, THE BASIS OF WHICH WAS LAID BY TWO
GREAT POLITICAL LEADERS FORTY YEARS AGO. BESIDES,
THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE OF ATTITUDE SINCE OUR
GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED AS REGARDS THE METHOD OR WAY
WHICH HAS BEEN JOINTLY ADOPTED TO DEAL WITH VARIOUS
PROBLEMS WHICH ARISE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES,
SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING RESERVATION: WE BELIEVED
THAT TURKEY AND GREECE, BEING NEIGHBOR COUNTRIES AND
ALLIES, WERE UNDER AN OBLIGATION NOT TO ALLOW CERTAIN
MATTERS WHICH HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED, AND WHICH HAVE CALLED
FOR SETTLEMENT FOR A LONG TIME, TO REMAIN IN ABEYANCE. FOR THIS

REASON, WE HAVE FOR OUR PART DONE EVERYTHING AS TO
ENABLE BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO HAVE RESOURCES WITHOUT DELAY TO THE PROCEDURE
WHICH THEY HAD PROVIDED TO SETTLE SUCH PROBLEMS.

3. QUESTION TWO: WHAT IS THE ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS REGARDS THE AEGEAN?
TETENES: THERE HAS OFTEN BEEN DISCUSSION ON THE
ALLEGED PROSPECTS OF GREECE RENDERING THE AEGEAN INTO A
GREEK "SEA" OR "LAKE". NOTHING IS MORE UNTRUE THAN THAT
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AND NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE CLARIFICATION OF THIS
MATTER. GREECE IS A COUNTRY OF SEAFARERS AND HAS A
TREMENDOUS MERCHANT MARINE. LOGIC AND THE INTERESTS
OF GREECE DICTATE OUR PREFERENCE FOR FREE SEA COMMUNI-
CATIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD. IT REMAINS NECESSARY IN
ORDER TO CLARIFY ONCE AND FOR ALL THE PROBLEM TO
DETERMINE THE BORDERS OF THE SEA SHELVES BETWEEN THE
TWO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

FROM THE STANDPOINT OF GREECE, THE GENEVA AGREEMENT OF 1958, WHICH CODIFIES THE LAWS REFERRING TO SEA SHELVES AND WHICH HAS BEEN SIGNED BY MORE THAN FIFTY COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE LARGEST POWERS, PROVIDES FOR THE DELINEATION OF BORDERS ON THE SHELVES AND ALSO THAT ISLANDS HAVE THEIR OWN SEA SHELVES.

GUNES: AS LONG AS THE BORDER LINE OF THE SHELVES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES NEEDS TO BE DETERMINED, THIS SHOULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES THROUGH COMMON AGREEMENT RATHER THAN BY IMPOSING SUCH A DELINEATION THROUGH INVOKING CERTAIN PRINCIPLES PROVIDED BY AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. SINCE THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRACING THE BORDERS OF THE SEA SHELVES AND THE DEMARCATION OF MAINLAND BORDERS, THE SAME PROCEDURES WHICH CALL FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE INTERESTED PARTIES, ON THE BASIS OF ALL RULES WHICH ARE PROVIDED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW FOR SUCH INSTANCES, SHOULD BE FOLLOWED. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION WHICH WE HAVE WITH GREECE IS THE LACK OF DEMARCATION OF THE SEA SHELVES THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. THE AEGEAN SEA AS WELL AS THE MINORITIES WHICH LIVE ON THE MAINLAND SURROUNDING THE AEGEAN MUST ACT AS LINKS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES RATHER THAN CONSTITUTE PROBLEMS SEPARATING GREECE FROM TURKEY. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT TURKEY AND GREECE MUST UNITE THEIR EFFORTS AND THEIR MEANS IN ORDER TO FACE ANY EVENTUAL DIFFICULTIES, AND THEY MUST COOPERATE IN THE POLITICAL AND THE ECONOMIC FIELD AS WELL IN ORDER TO SECURE GREATER HAPPINESS FOR THEIR PEOPLES. ON OUR SIDE WE BELIEVE THAT OUR NATIONS HAVE MUCH TO GAIN FROM SUCH COOPERATION. THE TWO PEOPLES HAVE BEEN LIVING FOR CENTURES WHERE THE GREATEST CIVILIZATIONS OF THE WORLD WERE BORN.

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WOULD IT THEREFORE NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO WORK TOGETHER
HAND IN HAND AS TRUE FRIENDS AND BROTHERS SO THAT THEY WILL
LEAVE FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME THE LEGACY THAT THESE DESERVE.
THIS IS WHAT TURKEY WISHES. NO PROBLEM WILL REMAIN BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES FROM THE DAY THAT SUCH A MUTUAL POLICY
CAN BE PUT INTO EFFECT.

4. QUESTION THREE: WHY HAVE THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS
IN CYPRUS NOT PRODUCED EVEN TEMPORARY RESULTS?
TETENES: AS FAR AS GREECE IS CONCERNED, THE DESIRE OF
ATHENS TO REACH AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION IN CYPRUS IS NOT
JUST PLATONIC. AS LONG AS NOBODY PLACES IN QUESTION THE
EXISTENCE OF AN INDEPENDENT CYPRIOT STATE IT REMAINS
SIMPLY A PROBLEM OF REVISING THE 1960 CONSTITUTION WITHOUT
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CHANGING THE FUNDAMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STATE,
THUS ALLOWING THE TWO COMMUNITIES TO LIVE IN PEACE AND
COOPERATION. THIS IS A TASK TO BE PRIMARILY CARRIED
OUT BY THE GREEK CYPRIOTS AND THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS WHO
ARE THE ONES WHO WILL LIVE TOGETHER. IN THIS SENSE
ANY INTERFERENCE FROM ABROAD, WHICH MIGHT STIR UP
FEELINGS AND MAKE MORE DIFFICULT THE BASIC POSITIONS
OF EACH, CANNOT BUT HARM THE TRUE INTERESTS OF THE TWO
COMMUNITIES. AS REGARDS GREECE AND TURKEY, THE TWO
COUNTRIES SHOULD CONCENTRATE ALL OF THEIR INFLUENCE
IN ORDER TO CONVINCE THE TWO PARTIES THAT THEIR INTEREST
IS IN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES.
GUNES: PRIOR TO STARTING THE ENLARGED INTERCOMMUNAL
TALKS IN CYPRUS THERE WERE IN FORCE CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL
AGREEMENTS REFERRING TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES WHICH
WERE TO BE CONSIDERED IN MAKING A FINAL DECISION ABOUT
CYPRUS. AMONG THEM WAS THE PROVISION FOR GRANTING

LOCAL AUTONOMY TO THE TURKEISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY AND THE MAINTENCE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RULES STANDING AT THE BASIS OF THE 1960 AGREEMENTS. THERE WAS SOME PROGRESS IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AS LONG AS THESE POINTS WERE RESPECTED. DIFFICULTIES AROSE WHEN THESE AGREEMENTS, WHICH MUST BE RESPECTED TO THE END, WERE TOUCHED BY A TENDENCY NO LONGER TO RECONGNIZE THE PARTNERSHIP STATUS WHICH THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY HAD BEEN ENJOYING ON AN EQUAL BAISIS WITH THE GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY WITH RESEPCT TO PARTICIPATION IN THE INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE STATE, THEREFORE, IF THIS TENDENCY DISAPPEARS AND THE ABOVE MENTIONED AGREEMENTS AND THE INERCOMMUNAL CHARACTER ARE RESPECTED, I BELIEVE THAT IT WILL NOT BE DIFFICULT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF CYPRUS IN A SATISFACTORY MANNER FOR ALL PARTIES CONCERNED. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE INTERESTED PARTIES MUST CONCENTRATE SINCERELY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY ON THE PROBLEM WITHOUT INSISTING ON MATTERS OF TERMINOLOGY, AND WORK TO FIND A SOLUTION IN HARMONY WITH THE REALITIES PREVAILING ON THE ISLAND.

5. QUESTION FOUR: COMMENT ON YOUR MEETING IN OTTAWA.
TETENES: I CANNOT BUT EXPRESS MY SATISFACTION WITH THIS FIRST MEETING WITH MY TURKISH COLLEAGUE. AFTER
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THIS MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE IN A VERY FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE I SINCERELY HOPE THAT FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTIES WILL IMPOVE.
GUNES: IN THE PERSON OF MY GREEK COLLEAGUE HIS EXCELLENCY MR. TETENES, I FOUND A PUBLIC OFFICIAL WHO STRIVES AS MUCH AS I DO FOR BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN THE FUTURE. WE HAVE HAD VERY FRIENDLY AND SINCERE TALKS AND I HOPE THAT POSITIVE RESULTS WILL COME ABOUT IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.
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